

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

CPG #NM-1316

Application of Christopher Bartlett for a certificate)
of public good for an interconnected group net-)
metered photovoltaic electric power system)

Order entered: 7/25/2011

I. INTRODUCTION

This case involves an application filed by Christopher Bartlett ("Applicant") on November 24, 2010, requesting a certificate of public good ("CPG") pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 219a and 248 and Vermont Public Service Board ("Board") Rule 5.100 for a net metering system. The net metering system is a group system that utilizes a photovoltaic system and includes two electric meters.

Notice of the application in this docket was sent to all parties as specified in the Board's Rule 5.100. The notice stated that any party wishing to submit comments or request a hearing in this matter needed to file comments with the Board within thirty (30) days of the date that the notice of the application was sent.

On November 24, 2010, Central Vermont Public Service Corporation ("CVPS") submitted comments on the application. CVPS states that the application is incomplete, as one of the accounts specified does not exist, and there is no indication as to which account the generation will be interconnected.

On May 16, 2011, the Town of Woodstock ("Woodstock") submitted comments on the application. Woodstock states that its main concern is the visual impact of the proposed project, and would prefer that the installation be relocated to where it would not be visible by the public. Woodstock asserts that since the proposed installation is fairly small, the visual impact will not be overly intrusive, and that if the project were to increase in size the visual impact would similarly increase.

On May 23, 2011, the proposed project's installer submitted comments in response to Woodstock. The installer states that if the project were moved to Woodstock's preferred

location, the system would be more susceptible to shading and therefore less efficient, would be farther from the point of AC interconnection, thereby requiring increased trenching, conduit and wire, and thus cost.

No other comments have been received.

The Board has reviewed the application and accompanying documents and agrees that, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 219a and 248 and the Board's Rule 5.100, a CPG should be issued without further investigation or hearing.

II. FINDINGS

Based upon the application and its accompanying documents, the Board makes the following findings in this matter.

1. The proposed group net metering project will be located on property owned by the Applicant at 2715 Church Hill Road in Woodstock, Vermont. Application at Section 1.
2. The proposed net metering facility is to be erected on a new structure. Application at Section 4.
3. The proposed group system consists of a photovoltaic system with a total system-rated power output of 3.496 kW AC. The facility will be interconnected with the CVPS electrical distribution system. Application at Section 4 and attachments.
4. Applicant has specified the meters to be included in the group system by account number and location. Applicant has also provided a method for adding or removing meters included in the group system. Application at Section 7 and attachments.
5. Applicant has designated himself as the person responsible for receiving all communications regarding the group system. Application at Section 7.
6. All disputes among users of the group system shall be resolved by the Applicant. Application at Section 7.
7. Applicant has certified that the project is in compliance with all of the provisions of Sections 3 and 8 of the application. Based on these submissions, we conclude that the project does not raise a significant issue with respect to the environmental criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248. Application at Sections 3 and 8 and Attachments.

8. Applicant has certified compliance with the insurance requirements as set forth in Section 3 of the application. Application at Section 3.

Discussion

The Board has received no further correspondence, either from the Applicant or CVPS, regarding the status of their application with CVPS. We require the Applicant to file with the Board an assertion that all outstanding issues regarding the application with CVPS have been resolved prior to commencing construction.

Woodstock has raised concerns about the visual impact of the project in the proposed location, but has not objected to the project nor requested a hearing in this matter. Therefore, we are persuaded to permit the project in the proposed location in light of the decreased efficiency and increased cost that a move to Woodstock's preferred location would cause. However, should the Applicant seek to increase the size of the project, Woodstock will again have the opportunity to submit comments or to request a hearing.

III. CONCLUSION

In Docket No. 6181,¹ the Board developed a net metering program in accordance with the statutory requirements of 30 V.S.A. § 219a. This program was further refined by the Board with the adoption of Board Rule 5.100. The goals of the Order and Rule are to encourage private investment in renewable energy resources, stimulate the economic growth of the state and enhance the continued diversification of energy sources used in Vermont. The standards and requirements adopted in the Order and Rule have been determined by the Board to protect public safety and system reliability.

Based upon the findings and evidence, the proposed net metering project will be in compliance with the requirements of the Board's Order in Docket No. 6181 and Rule 5.100, the application does not raise a significant issue with respect to the substantive criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248, and the proposed project will promote the general good of the state.

1. *Investigation into the Use of A Net Metering System for the Purchase and Sale of Electricity from Small Electrical Generating Systems to and from Electric Companies*, Docket No. 6181, April 21, 1999.

IV. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Public Service Board of the State of Vermont that:

1. The group net metering system, in accordance with the evidence and plans submitted in this proceeding, will promote the general good of the State of Vermont pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 219a, and a certificate of public good to that effect shall be issued in this matter, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 219a and 248.

2. Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must file with the Board an assertion that all outstanding issues regarding the application with Central Vermont Public Service Corporation have been resolved.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 25th day of July, 2011.

<u>s/ James Volz</u>)	
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)	PUBLIC SERVICE
<u>s/ David C. Coen</u>)	
)	BOARD
)	
)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/ John D. Burke</u>)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: July 25, 2011

Attest: s/ Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further Order by this Board or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within ten days of the date of this decision and order.